

Why are the trees turning red?



The numbers are staggering. Across the Western U.S., mountain pine beetles in 2005 destroyed more than 2.9 million acres of forests. In Montana, more than 750,000 acres representing 2.4 million trees were killed by mountain pine beetles in 2006. Canada's toll of beetle-killed trees has exceeded 20 million acres.

Citizens, elected officials, land managers, private foresters and conservationists are concerned. Is the bark beetle infestation part of a natural cycle?

What are the factors causing the outbreak and what lies ahead? How will it affect Montana's forests, wildlife and economy? Is there anything we can do?

The Red Tree Symposium is a one-day public forum for anyone who wants to learn more about the causes and potential impacts of the bark beetle outbreak on Montana's forests. Presentations will feature entomologists, wildlife biologists, timber industry representatives and others.

WHEN: Thursday, June 5, 2008, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **WHERE:** University Center Ballroom, University of Montana, Missoula MT **COST:** Free, but you must register **CALL** (406) 542-4300 to register, or go online to WWW.DNRC.MT.gov/redtree

The Red Tree Symposium is sponsored by the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation; the Applied Forest Management Program at the University of Montana; Montana State University Extension Forestry; and U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry.